



PUBLIC LIBRARY
FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO., IND.



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



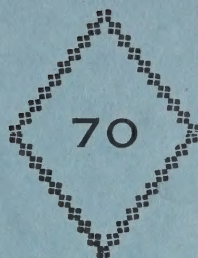
3 1833 01716 1461

Gc 977.202 F77fLb
Foelber, Herman M.
History of the Lutheran
teachers' conference of
Fort Wayne and vicinity



1873

1943



70th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Fort Wayne

Lutheran Teachers Conference

ORGANIZED 1873



HERMAN FOELBER, HISTORIAN

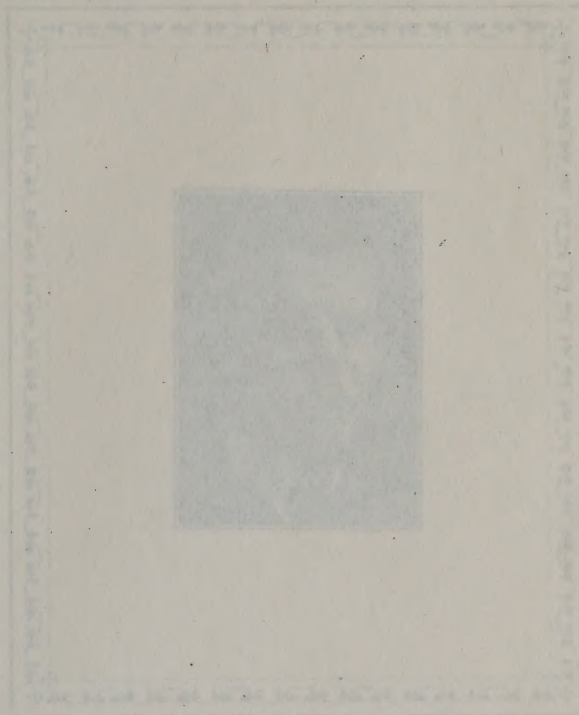
NUOFFER PRINT



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
FORT WAYNE AND ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

550793

DEDICATED TO
our venerable colleagues



TEACHER GUSTAVE KAMPE

The only charter member living.

Born September 3, 1854.

Active as teacher for 42 years.

from 1873 till 1935.

Present age, 89 years.

DEC 13 1953

DEDICATED TO
our venerable colleague



TEACHER GUSTAVE KAMPE

The only charter member living.

Born September 3, 1854.

Active as teacher for 62 years
from 1873 till 1935.

Present age: 89 years.



A HISTORY OF THE LUTHERAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

of

FORT WAYNE AND VICINITY

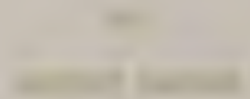
In Commemoration of its 70th Anniversary
1873 - 1943

BY

HERMAN FOELBER

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
OF
THE EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

In Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary
1998 - 1999



Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

PART I 1873 - 1933

The industrial paralysis and financial anemia of the past several years may seem to have nothing to do at all with a historical sketch of the Lutheran Teachers' Conference of Fort Wayne and Vicinity. To be sure, the Depression is neither the father nor the child of this association of teachers. But when we stop to consider that the educational germ, from which in time there developed among other agencies also this one, was planted in days very much like those of the present time, we can, I think, and should form some estimate of the courage which actuated our forebears of ninety-six years ago, and then, following their example, increase our own energy. Those were the days of the Great Panic, the Wild Cat Crisis, in 1837 when Van Buren was at the helm. Hundreds of banks failed, fat speculators became as lean as an Arkansas razorback, the bread lines seemed endless, and the unemployed roamed the country in droves.

But all these untoward conditions did not deter our Lutheran forefathers of Fort Wayne, then a village of about 500 inhabitants, from organizing the first Lutheran congregation on October 14, 1837. Their leader was the Reverend Jesso Hoover. In its program of work, that group included not only preaching services and administration of the sacraments, but also the instruction of the children through the medium of an elementary or grammar school in session five days a week from September until July.

To the layman Henry Rudisill more than to any other rightfully belongs the credit of actively promoting the founding of the Lutheran church of Fort Wayne. This colorful character who strangely enough seems to have combined in himself promotional skill and integrity of character appealed with such force and insistence to the East that not only scores of Lutherans, but also a pastor came into his town.

Not unworthy of reflection is the fact that the Rev. Hoover thought the work of the school so important that he himself, lacking the assistance of another man, undertook to give the instruction. Whenever urgent missionary calls necessitated his absence from the school, he made the best of the situation by engaging his brother David to hold the fort. The zeal of Jesse Hoover may be measured by the fact that after only a year his strength was consumed, his untimely death occurring when his heart failed him. We hesitate to apply to him the adage: He loved not wisely, but too well.

The work was continued by that dynamic and practical missionary, Friedrich Wyneken. Conditions had so far improved at this time that F. W. Hussmann could be maintained as full-time teacher for the church school. The success of the venture had become so apparent that Hussmann was pressed into service also by two groups of settlers living among the oaks and maples, the one eight and the other eighteen miles from the little city of Fort Wayne.

The call for additional pastors having become more urgent, Hussmann was taken out of the schools and placed into the section lying southeast of Fort Wayne where in 1846 a new congregation had come into being, known today as Emmanuel at Scest.

In the meantime provision had been made for the school in Fort Wayne by placing J. G. Wolf in charge of the children. The fact that he served for fifteen years indicates, that greater stability and solidity were coming to the work of the church, a characteristic for which the Missouri Synod has become favorably known. Several of his pupils, now more than four score years of age, some time ago unhesitatingly declared that he was a faithful guide. To this testimony may be added the fact, that his salary was more than trebled, having been raised from \$40.00 to \$150.00 per annum, during the fifteen years of his service. This was considered no small sum at that time when money was scarce.

According to William Walda, who more than seventy years ago sat at the feet of Wolf, a second teacher in the person of J. G. Kunz was already serving as an assistant to Wolf. And in 1858 the enrollment had risen so high that B. Feiertag, father to our esteemed colleague H. J. Feiertag, was asked to discontinue his studies temporarily in order to help drag the net at Fort Wayne. Great sadness fell upon the Fort Wayne Lutherans when in 1862 the dreadful smallpox dragged Wolf from the school room into the grave. You will pardon if I digress here to add that his widow later on for many years furnished sacramental wafers for our congregation here in Fort Wayne and later in St. Louis, where she had gone to live.

Even in those days the life of a teacher was not entirely drab and monotonous, though I dare say not all exciting and novel changes from the daily routine were very satisfying. Here was one that certainly was not. In the closing years of the Civil War much powder was being wasted not only by the soldiers, but also by the civilians, even by the children. The lads of St. Paul's had also acquired the habit of playing with powder horns. Sometimes they brought the horns unemptied to school. To an irresponsible youngster craving for excitement, the big, black cannon stove in the schoolroom seemed an ideal setting for a dramatic situation. Opportunity for success in such a plot was frequently provided for, as all older teachers know from experience, these heating mechanisms needed almost constant attention. One day, as related by Mr. Walda, a particularly aggressive youth, standing immediately behind young William, waited for the stove door to open. The opportune moment came, and immediately the contents of a well-filled powder horn sailed over William's head into the fire. The reaction was as convulsive as it was instantaneous. The school room was a house of smoke and confusion. Mr. Kunz and his pupils were panic stricken. Pandemonium reigned for a while, but no one was injured excepting the unfortunate Walda, whose entire face had been terribly licked by the shooting flame. Mr. Walda considers it a miracle that he did not lose his eye-sight. Yet, even in his case, the ill effects were not permanent. He suffered much pain, of course, and the loss of a half year of school. His confirmation, too, had to be deferred a year. (Mr. Walda passed away in 1942 at the age of 91 years.)

There are still some people who are both quick and emphatic in belittling the educational activities of our forefathers, and of their contemporaries. They assert that the work of our schools is inferior to that of the public school system. I am not disposed to argue the assertion here, but shall content myself with repeating simply a historical fact, the accuracy of which I have no reason to doubt. The lad whose school work had to be interrupted because of the powder burns, having completed the seventh grade of St. Paul's, applied with several others of his class for admission into the eighth grade of the public school. The examination to which they had to submit revealed that they had passed the various tests quite satisfactorily, scoring 100% in every branch of study.

At the end of the year each one was promoted to high school.

After the conclusion of the Civil War St. Paul's school grew by leaps and bounds. Colleague Kampe, who was a pupil of St. Paul's in the 1860's remembers the following men as members of the teaching force of that time: Kunz, Fleischer, Wilde, Wahlers, Troeller, Kurz, Gotsch and Loeser.

In the course of time nearly all of these men accepted calls to other congregations. In the year 1867 or '68, when Emmanuel congregation was organized and with it a school for the lower and intermediate grades, the faculty of St. Paul's included Loeser, Grahl, Rolf, Riedel, and Strieter, while Lindemann and Grimm served the West Siders. Since Emmanuel also grew rapidly, it added the upper grades, calling Clemons Haentzschel and D. Fechtmann to man them.

In this connection mention ought also to be made of the existence of St. John's congregation, which maintained a school with several teachers and affiliated with the Missouri Synod through the Synodical Conference until the break of the 1880's.

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE ORGANIZED - 1873

It appears that in the nineteenth century the Lutherans recognized panics as a call to bestir themselves to greater activity. Or is it again just a coincidence that in the year 1873, a panic year, the teachers of Fort Wayne came to the conclusion that the efficiency and morals of the schools would be heightened by an exchange of views among the teachers and that, therefore, to accomplish that end a teachers' conference ought to be organized? At any rate, such a conference was actually organized in that year.

The first session of this conference was held August 29, 1873, at the home of teacher Grahl. The official name of the new organization was: Concordia Lehrer Konferenz von Fort Wayne und Umgegend. For president the new body chose Grahl; for secretary, H. Rolf. Apparently, a treasurer was deemed unnecessary. Later a constitution was drafted. It contained only seven paragraphs. The first one reveals the name of the conference. The second one states the purpose of the conference to be, to make each member more proficient and competent in his profession; first, by reading papers on the technique of teaching the Catechism and Bible History; secondly, by reading and discussing papers on pedagogical subjects; thirdly, by presenting papers on Weltkunde (social studies). The third paragraph lays down the conditions of membership, specifying that only such teachers as are affiliated with the Synodical Conference may become members. Paragraph four declares that the officers of the conference, that is to say, the president, vice-president, and secretary may be elected for only one year. In the next paragraph the duties of the officers are outlined. Particular mention is made of the president's duty of opening and closing every meeting with prayer. Paragraph six fixes the frequency of the meetings at twice a month. The final paragraph enjoins all members to observe these five demands: 1. to be punctual in attendance; 2. to deliver the papers assigned; 3. to furnish an excuse if absent; 4. to observe the parliamentary rules adopted; 5. to pledge themselves to live up to the constitution by subscribing their names.

Among the original members of the conference were two who had come to Fort Wayne only a few weeks before - J. H. Ungemach, who had succeeded Loeser at St. Paul's, and Gustave Kampe, who had arrived fresh from the Addison Seminary to

begin work in the school of St. John's congregation. The complete list of charter members of the conference organized sixty years ago contains the following names: Grahl, Rolf, Strieder, Riedel, and Ungemach, all of St. Paul's; Lindemann, Grimm, Haentzschel and Fechtmann, all of Emmanuel; and Schwake and Kampe of St. John's. Every one of these charter members has long ago passed away, except our esteemed and venerable Kampe, who has been marching on for sixty years not only as a member of this conference, but also as an active teacher of a Christian school. Kampe reaches back into the past so far that among his personal experiences as an American citizen, is that Black Friday of September 19, 1873 when Fitch, Jay Cooke and Company, and with them many other great financial ships, hit the rocks because Jay Gould, the man with the Midas touch had grabbed almost all the gold in the United States. It was even at this time that young Kampe first began to wield the ferule with satisfactory results among the urchins of Fort Wayne. Jay Gould, George Gould, Fitch, Cooke and all their partners are gone, but our venerable colleague is still here. During these six decades he may not have aided materially to increase our supply of yellow metal or succeeded in pointing the way to Eldorado, but he has made a heavy sowing in the minds and hearts of hundreds of children of that seed which is more precious than thousands of gold and silver. Ergo, hearty congratulations to you, Brother Kampe!

In 1878 Kampe transferred from St. John's to Emmanuel. The reason for this move is a matter of common knowledge and, therefore, need not be given here. Twice, in 1878 and in 1884, Kampe served the conference as secretary, and once, in 1906, as chairman.

In the beginning, the sessions of the conference were held in rotation at the residences of the teachers. The time was Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30. In 1882 the place for meeting was changed to the school buildings of St. Paul's and Emmanuel congregations. In the first years the conference met weekly and semi-monthly because it was engaged in preparing a uniform course of study for the schools included in the conference. This important work required frequent and protracted meetings. These men believed in discussing and examining things thoroughly. The following subjects constituted the course of study: Luther's Catechism, Huebner's Bible History, Church Hymns, Psalms, German Reading, Grammar, German and English Penmanship, English, Geography, Church History, General History (for the boys), Nature Study (for the girls), and Singing. The minutes show further that at that time the schools were organized on a seven-year plan and that in the course of this period the pupils were expected to memorize all the Bible texts in the Catechism, 548 in number, 41 hymns with 243 stanzas and 13 psalms. By way of comparison, it may be stated that our present-day memory pensum calls for 318 Bible texts and 154 stanzas of hymns.

The conservatism of the fathers is seen from the fact that they chose texts in use already in the 50's and 60's, such as McGuffey's Readers. But they were not hide-bound conservatives. In the course of time they introduced such texts as Sargent's Primer and his First, Second, and Third Readers. Other texts are: Wachernagel's Lesebuch, Lange's Lehrbuch, Huebner's Biblische Geschichte, Dietrich's Katechismus, Der Deutsche Rechenmeister, and Spencer's Copy Books.

The minutes of the early years contain much information which will be of great interest always. When, for example, the conference met on that Black Friday of September 19, 1873, it was resolved to hold an outing with the children in Sweeney's Busch on the following Friday; that the teachers and pupils of St. John's be invited to participate; that they were all to congregate at the Emmanuel school building at 9:30 A.M.

This outing is, no doubt, still in the memory of Kampe, who had just been installed at St. John's and, to a greater degree perhaps, among the reminiscences of Fred Schroeder, who was then a twelve-year old lad of St. Paul's.

In a session held March 5, 1875, the introduction of a Speller was broached. Strieder, who functioned as secretary to the conference at that time, reported as follows: "Es wurde besonders darauf hingewiesen, dass die Konferenz soviel an ihrem Teile dahin anstreben muesse, unsere Schuljugend auch in der englischen Sprache soweit als nur moeglich heranzubilden, damit dieselbe nach ihrer Konfirmation nicht mehr noetig habe, die fuer so junge Christen gefaehrlichen Freischulen zu besuchen, welches leider bis da noch immer vorkomme. Ferner machte man auf die grosse Schwierigkeit im Buchstabieren der englischen Woerter aufmerksam, dass es keineswegs mit diesem Gegenstande in unseren Schulen so glaenzend bestellt sei, und dass jedenfalls unsere Kinder auch hierin einen bedeutenden Schritt weiter kommen wuerden wenn in unseren Schulen ein fuer alle Klassen entsprechendes Spelling Book eingefuehrt worden koennte. Ueber die Einfuehrung eines solchen Spelling Book waren jedoch die Ansichten verschieden. Ein Teil der Konferenzglieder hielt es nicht fuer so ueberaus notwendig, dass ein solches Buch eingefuehrt werde, indem man glaubte, mit der schon vorhandenen englischen Buechern eben dasselbe Ziel erreichen zu koennen, welches erst durch Einfuehrung eines solchen Spelling Book erreicht werden sollte. Auch trug man gewisse Bedenken zumal der gegenwaertigen Geldknappheit, mit dieser Angelegenheit vor die Gemeinde zu treten. Da also die Konferenz kein einstimmiges Resultat hierueber erzielen konnte, so wurde beschlossen, vorlaeufig mit der Besprechung ueber diesen Gegenstand abubrechen."

That the charter members really lived up to what they agreed to do in the second paragraph of their constitution is shown by the unusually large number of essays delivered at their meetings. Among the topics discussed were the following: Ueber Schulzeugnisse, January 18, 1875, by Ungemach; Methodik beim Bibellesen in der Schule, January 22, Rolf; Ueber das Versetzen der Schueler innerhalb der Klassen, April 30, John Ridel; Selbststudium des Lehrers, May 14, Strieder; Was hat die Christliche Gemeindeschule zu tun, um den Kindern den Weg zur Seligkeit zu weisen, May 28, Fechtman; Der Meister erzeigt sich in der Beschraenkung, January, 1876, Fechtman; Vergleich zwischen den grossen Antillen und den Sunda Inseln, November 19, 1875, Roscher; Das Zeichnen geographischer Karten von den Schuelern und deren Nutzen, January 28, 1876; Lindemann; Die Wiederholung, die Mutter der Wissenschaften, June 8, 1877, Roscher; Aller Unterricht sei anschaulich, August 17, 1877, Ungemach; Die Englische Sprache in unseren Schulen, September 7, 1877, Fechtmann; For- und Nachteile bei Trennung der Geschlechter, Grahl; Der Rechenunterricht in der Volksschule, March 8, 1879, Kampe; Geschichte der Gemeindeschulen zu Fort Wayne, August 1878, Grahl (to be published in the Schulblatt); Geschichte der Paedagogik, January 31, 1879, Ungemach; Unsere Schulpruefungen, September 7, 1883, Kampe; Erklaerung der Psalmen, die in unseren Schulen auswendig gelernt werden, December 6, 1884, Kampe.

It is noteworthy also that a catechisation on a section of the Catechism or a Bible story was part of the regular routine of every meeting.

The essays mentioned above and scores of others too numerous to mention were manifestly of inestimable value to each member of the conference. We infer, too, that all this work could not have been delivered if practically every member of that comparatively small group had not done his full duty both as to attendance and reading.

The following excerpt from the minutes of the meeting held April 16, 1875, will show that paragraph seven of the constitution, referring to the duties of each member, was by no means a dead letter: "Es wurde von einem Konferenz-glied folgende Bemerkung gemacht: 'Es werde fast keine Konferenz abgehalten, welche nicht von dem einem oder dem anderen Konferenzgliede versäumt wurde, auch komme es höchst selten vor, dass man sich entschuldige. Man fragte deshalb, ob es wohl nicht an der Zeit wäre, dass die Konferenz mit mehr Ernst, dieser eingerissenen Lauheit entgegentrete damit die allzuhäufigen Versäumnisse doch endlich einmal aufhören mochten. Es wurde auf den schon vor etlichen Jahren gemachten Beschluss hingewiesen, nach welchem ein jedes Konferenzglied verpflichtet ist, sich bei etwaiger Abhaltung oder Versäumnissen zu entschuldigen. Hiermit nicht befriedigt, wurde obormals folgender Antrag zum Beschluss erhoben. Beschlossen dass dasjenige Konferenzglied, welches ohne dringende Ursache die Konferenz versäumt und sich auch nicht entschuldigt oder entschuldigen lässt, dann fuer sein etwa nicht lobliches Verhalten eine angemessene Zurechtweisung erhalte, welche ihm in der naechsten Sitzung zuertheilt werden soll, falls nicht noch durch eine genuegende Entschuldigung Einsprache dagegen erhoben wird.'"

As there are all kinds of animals in a menagerie and birds of different feathers in an aviary, so there are various differing types of the genus homo, with their respective foibles and idiosyncracies. Even the Concordia Teachers' Conference has ever furnished and, I suppose, always will furnish evidence of this fact. According to the records of this conference, there have been colleagues in the past who did not consider it their duty and certainly not a privilege to attend the conference. Though this situation was often decried, still, if silence is proof, no teacher in Fort Wayne was ever disciplined or publicly reprimanded for non-attendance. In the course of time, it seemed to become a settled practice simply to ignore the delinquents. The motive for this attitude appears to be the conviction that a forced attendance is no better than none at all. As long as the Old Adam insists on having his way, there will be nothing perfect in this world, and, therefore, a 100% attendance at conference an unrealized ideal. The recalcitrants have always been and will continue to be to the end of the world. Requiescant in pace! (May they rest in peace!)

Reference has been made to an essay delivered on January 13, 1876, by Fechtman on Goethe's dictum: "In der Beschränkung zeigt sich erst der Meister." (Faust) One secretary possessed this virtue in excess. For his entire minutes covering the conference of June 13, 1879, consume only four short sentences, to wit: "Die Konferenz wird mit Gebet erceffnet. Das Protokoll wurde verlesen und angenommen. Hierauf folgte eine allgemeine Verstaendigung. Vertagt mit Gebet." Signed: J. H. U. Even briefer were the minutes of the next two pages which are blank. The significance of all this brevity and blank may be recognized with the help of the next minutes, which report a reorganization of the conference almost three years later, on May 13, 1882, in the room reserved for the catechumen class in St. Paul's church. It chronicled the end of the moratorium declared apparently in the interest of peace. The affable and energetic Grahl was chosen president and Karl Seibel, secretary. Roscher was honored with the vice-presidency and Kampe with the assistant secretaryship.

About four years later, from June 5, 1886, until September 17, 1887, the conference declared another protracted recess. This time, however, we need not conjecture the nature of the cause. The following report submitted by Chairman Grahl is self-explanatory: Im vergangenen Sommer und Herbst hatten drei Glieder dieser Konferenz (unter ihnen der Versitzer) die Korrektur des Journals im Druck

befindlichen Fourth Reader zu lesen, eine Arbeit, welche sie allwoechentlich fuer drei Abende in Anspruch nahm, so dass es ihnen unmoeglich war . . . noch Zeit zum Besuch der Konferenz zu eruebrigen. Mit Bewilligung aller Glieder wurden die Versammlungen deshalb ausgesetzt.

This particular section of the minutes as well as many others are proof sufficient that our fathers of the nineteenth century strove with heart and soul for their school system. They did not shirk the painstaking task of revising textbooks and of choosing new material. Never, it appears, did they proceed in a haphazard manner.

That they did not subscribe to the principle that overything new is an improvement over the old is clearly discernible from their attitude towards a projected collection of preludes and interludes to be composed by Professor Brauer for use with his Choralbuch.

The Cleveland Conference in a writing pleaded that this conference also join them in urging Professor Brauer to publish such a collection. This plea was presented and acted upon with the following results: "Beschlossen das Schreiben auf den Tisch zu legen, da die Konferenz die Notwendigkeit eines solchen Buches nicht erkennen konnte. Im Kreise unserer Synode wird vieles geschrieben und gedruckt und sodann von unseren Synodalblaettern gutgeheissen und warm empfohlen. Laesst man sich aber dann ein solches Produkt schicken, so ist man oft bitter enttaeuscht und man gereut sein Geld an ein solches Werk verschwendet zu haben." (Extract from minutes of January 4, 1889.)

They certainly maintained their right to prove all things and to hold fast only to that which they deemed to be good. They were always ready and willing to appreciate and welcome the introduction of music of superior quality, but they were very quick also to voice their disapproval of anything which, in their judgment, was inferior or mediocre.

An extract from the minutes of January 1889 may illustrate: "Es kam nun zur Sprache ob es nicht an der Zeit waere, dass man solche Werke einer gerechten Kritik unterwerfe und selbige veroeffentliche. Kollege Grahl erbot sich, eine Kritik bis zur naechsten Konferenz abzugeben ueber das von Gruetzmacher herausgegebene: "Ehre sei Gott in der Hoeh." Die Konferenz beschloss auf diese Sache einzugehen und dass Kollege Grahl damit den Anfang mache."

And Mr. Grahl, assisted by Hormel, indeed did censure said Gruetzmacher composition in the most pitiless and devastating manner in an article appearing in the Schulblatt of May 1889 and entitled "Auch ein Opus". This article brought forth a storm of protest from Gruetzmacher's colleagues in the New York conference in which the brethren of Fort Wayne were accused of "Unbruederlichkeit, Lieblosigkeit, Verlaeumdung und Unfeigkeit," and it required the efforts of Direktor Krauss to calm the troubled waters.

These men had varied interests. Least among those was not their alma mater at Addison, as the following extract from the minutes of a meeting hold November 7, 1890, will show: "Der Rest der Sitzung wurde zum grossen Teil damit zugebracht, die Addisoner Seminar Angelegenheiten zu besprochen, welche sich zu Anfang dieses Schuljahrs zugetragen haben. Die 'Streik-Geschichte' ist ja beigelagt. Dir. Krauss hat ein grosses Schreiben an alle Eltern, deren Soehne beteiligt waren, geschickt in welchem er die Sache in seiner Weise auslegte. Auch wurde berichtet,

dass die meisten Schueler, welche so in der Eile der Laufpass bekommen hatten, wieder aufgenommen worden seien. Unsere Konferenz kann nun auch weiter nichts in der Sache tun. Doch sollte sich die Klage von Seiten der Seminaristen als wahr erweisen, dass ihnen durch die neue Einrichtung des Pumpens (Der Calcanten) und auch in anderer Weise, die Freizeit eingeschraenkt und vermindert wird, so will die Konferenz fuer die Rechte der Seminaristen eintreten."

That these men were human, filled with interest and sympathy with one another, we gather from the expressions of sorrow over the loss of their members, as evidenced in the minutes of the meeting held on June 7, 1884, and on September 4, 1891, upon the deaths of Colleagues Hoppe and Roscher.

We are sometimes accused of suffering from an inferiority complex. Our fathers cannot be accused of that. For in a session held August 31, 1878, Grahl was requested to deliver an essay entitled: "The History of our Lutheran Schools in Fort Wayne." The conference resolved that this paper be published in the Schulblatt. Unfortunately, the later minutes do not state that this request was heeded. It was not possible to locate this essay anywhere and very likely it is no longer extant. The loss of it is to be deplored.

The most far-reaching change from an educational point of view ever made by this conference came in 1918, when, because of the Great War, the use of the German language of forty-five years' standing, was discontinued in the meetings. Since then, all proceedings have been recorded in the English language.

Let us now pause once more at the year 1893. It also was a panic year. But other things happened besides the panic. It was then that a certain young man, who three score years ago a pupil of St. Paul's had played many a prank both inside and outside the school room returned to Fort Wayne to teach and to seek admittance to the conference. He has now rounded out exactly fifty years in the teaching profession. Incredible as it may seem, this statement is nevertheless true. He is, I dare say, the youngest old man among all the teachers, barring none, of the Missouri Synod. To you, Fidi Schroeder of yesterday and today, may there be many more tomorrows! In all these years he has lost many things, but these things remain with him still: His pranks, his wit, his corn-cob pipe, and his Latin phrases.

The minutes of this conference covering the period from 1891 to 1907 could not be located. If they were available, you would very likely be subjected to a large number of additional data of no little importance. With reference to the decades which lie immediately behind us, let me say that the minutes bear irrefutable testimony to the fact that the interest of this conference in the schools which it represents has not diminished. In my opinion, the zeal of the present generation does not lag behind that of its predecessors. The twentieth century is following in the footsteps of the nineteenth. The seed sown by the fathers has borne fruit abundant. The building which they began to build has been steadily expanded. Then, there were only three schools manned by fewer than ten teachers; now, there are eleven schools manned by forty-two teachers. And it is a striking fact that twelve of the forty-two men have served forty years and longer in the Lutheran class room. These are: Kampe, Schroeder, Feiertag, Foelber, Fr. Wolf, Wm. Wolf, Bennhoff, Pehlmann, Nuoffer, Hahn, Floering, and Kenew. May God bless our conference and our schools!

The officers of the Conference of 1933 were as follows:

H. A. Stolper	Chairman	A. Lohr) Program
Geo. Twietmeyer . . .	Vice Chairman	O. J. Schneider)	Committee
A. A. Manske	Secretary-Treasurer		

PART II
1933 - 1943

In view of the fact that another decade has elapsed since the 60th anniversary of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Teachers' Conference, I have been requested by the conference to bring its history up to date. It shall be my endeavor to comply with this request.

The record book containing the minutes from September 16, 1927 up to the present time will be my guide in chronicling the outstanding events.

In the meeting held on January 13, 1933, it was resolved to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Teachers' Conference and that the writer of this sketch in collaboration with colleague Kampe be asked to prepare a history in commemoration of this event.

A committee was appointed to arrange for a public church service.

On May 31, 1933, the conference celebrated the event at St. Martini's Grove and in colleague Albert Meyer's school, southeast of the city. Our senior colleague, Mr. Kampe, the only surviving charter member, participated.

However, November 8, 1933, marked the day when the members of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Teachers' Conference met for a joint service with the members of the Northern Indiana Lutheran Teachers' Conference at Emmaus church in commemoration of the 60th and 50th anniversaries respectively. Pastor Fred Wambsganss delivered a very impressive sermon.

A close survey of the minutes in the last record book (September 1927 up to date) bears irrefutable testimony of the fact that the interest of this conference in the schools which it represents has not diminished. The zeal of both of our younger and older teachers does not lag behind that of their predecessors or forefathers.

It may seem strange to other organizations that our conference more than ten years ago, chose to meet from the hours of 6-8 p.m. on every second Friday in the month for its monthly sessions. This was done in order to make it possible for such colleagues to attend the conference, who later on in the evening are kept busy with choir rehearsals or other activities in the congregations.

Our fathers can not be accused of suffering from an inferiority complex. They stood upon their own feet, depending upon their own resources. Being very conservative, perhaps too conservative, they kept aloof from such educational systems and institutions as were outside of their realm. They, therefore, hesitated to adopt anything, that in their opinion would endanger or jeopardize our schools.

However, not so many years after the close of the First World War many

changes in the field of education were brought about, some progressive, some, in my humble opinion, retrogressive. The members of our conference sought to keep abreast of the various trends, innovations, and activities in the Public Schools.

In order to articulate and conform with the course of study of the Public School it became imperative to revise our curriculum from time to time, especially as to the secular branches.

The minutes of January 10, 1936, indicate that uniformity regarding courses text books, etc., was deemed very essential for the future welfare of our schools, and became, therefore, the main topic of the discussions. Topic committees were appointed for the different subjects with a Curriculum Committee to supervise the entire plan. Most of the text books used in the Public schools, such as relative to history, geography, penmanship, language, etc., were finally adopted.

With regard to the religious subjects let me say that the Committee on religion has spent much time in revising the memory pensus of Bible texts, hymns, etc. The conference devoted many sessions to a review of Schwan's Explanations of Luther's Chief Parts of his Small Catechism. Colleague Flooring was instructed to submit the suggestions, changes, and recommendations offered by the conference to the Synodical Committee for the Revision of the proposed new catechism. I am sure that all the colleagues will welcome the day when the introduction of the proposed revised Catechism will become a reality.

That our conference with its teachers shares the good will and confidence of the heads of the public schools was obvious when Mr. Merle Abnett, Superintendent of Public Schools in Fort Wayne, delivered a lecture at our conference on the topic of School Management and Administration (May 10, 1935).

My conviction that the attitude of the instructors and principals of our public grade and high schools in the city towards our schools is cordial and friendly is corroborated by the fact that our 8th grade graduates are welcomed and admitted into their high schools without examination.

The annual School Masters' Banquet to which our teachers are invited, and in which they participate, also furnishes ample proof of a willingness to cooperate and promote a sympathetic understanding.

It is also worthy of note that our schools were closed in the afternoon on the day when Mr. Ward, former Superintendent of Fort Wayne Public Schools, was buried, and that a letter of condolence was sent to his family (Nov. 10, 1931).

The minutes clearly show that the program for the conference varied in nature from year to year; they included book reviews and lectures from men chosen not only from our midst and our institutions and colleges, but also from the Public School, civic circles, medical and legal professions.

Since February 16, 1940, the faculty of each school in rotation constitutes the program committee and assumes the administrative duties, functioning as officers for the time being. No wonder then, that the interest of the conference is kept alive, thus preventing monotony and stagnation from creeping in.

To acquaint the members of the school boards of our schools with the work of our conference and schools, and in order to create and stimulate interest in their respective schools, an invitation for a joint session is extended to them every year.

The first joint session with the school boards, according to the minutes, was held on May 9, 1930. Two papers were presented and discussed, namely, "Adversities of the Teacher and their Remedies" by the writer, and "Pre-school Education and Training," by Mr. Wiedenhoefer.

In the school year from September 1940 to May 1941, pastors were chosen to open the conference with a short lecture. Following were the devotional speakers with their subjects:

Sep. 13, 1940 - Necessity of Cooperation between Pastors and Teachers	
 The Rev. Backs
Oct. 11, 1940 - Dangers Threatening our Schools from Within and Without	
	. . The Rev. Arno Scholz
Nov. 6, 1940 - Objectives in Teaching Religion The Rev. Paul Miller
Jan. 10, 1941 - Early Translation of the Bible The Rev. Carl Wyneken
Feb. 14, 1941 - Church Discipline According to Matt. 18	
	. . The Rev. P. L. Dannenfeldt
Mar. 13, 1941 - How to Teach the Sixth Commandment	. The Rev. Walter Klausing
May 16, 1941 - Our Christian Day School, a Missionary Agency	
	. . . The Rev. Fred Wambsganss

Whenever deemed expedient or feasible, sectional meetings of the primary, intermediate, and upper grade teachers were arranged, which convened from 6 to 7 p.m., to discuss methods, text-books, and problems of their respective grades. These separate meetings were followed by the regular joint sessions. Following were some of the most interesting essays and lectures delivered:

1. Bridging Gap between the Grade and High School - Mr. Null, Jan. 15, 1932.
2. Modern Ways to teach Geography - Miss Lancaster, Nov. 11, 1932.

The next two lectures show that the teachers are also interested in the child's physical welfare.

3. Immunization of Children against Diphtheria and Care of Children with Defects - Dr. Eberly, Jan. 10, 1936.
4. Cooperation of Doctor and Teachers on Vitamins, and on Children's Diseases - Dr. Carl G. Miller, Sept. 13, 1940.

On October 10, 1930, a school nurse addressed the conference.

5. Personality Quotients - Professor Henricks, Dec. 11, 1936.
6. A Lecture on Palestine - Director Krueger, Nov. 11, 1938.
7. A book review and discussion on Kilpatrick's "Remaking of the Curriculum" by members of the conference: O. Schneider, Luella Feiertag, Arthur Niemeyer, Carl Waldschmidt, and George Twietmeyer; in October, and November 1939, and January and February 1940.
8. The Changing World - Dr. Linton of Indiana University Extension, Oct. 11, 1940.
9. Comparisons of Results Obtained from Teaching Geography and History as Separate Subjects and as a Fusion Course - P. E. Bennett (Waynedale Principal), Jan. 10, 1941.
10. Industrial Arts in the Grades such as Mechanical Drawing - Professor Wilbur Busch, Concordia College, May 8, 1942.

11. Science in the Elementary School - Professor Paul Lange, River Forest, May 16, 1941.
12. General Procedure of Business in the State Capitol - Mr. William Fruechtenicht, Sept. 9, 1932.
13. On Citizenship. Work of the Social League and About the Selective Service Act - former State Representative, Lewis Garding, Sep. 12, 1941.
14. Air "aid Precautions - Capt. Kring, Fire Department, March 31, 1942.
15. High Lights of a Christian Pedagogy - lecture by Dr. E. A. Koehler, River Forest, Illinois, Sept. 11, 1942.

This book was discussed and reviewed in the following sessions by members of the conference, namely, H. A. Stolper, William Gernand, A. Lohr, G. Arkebauer, A. Manski, O. Schneider, and Wm. Uffelmann.

16. Oct. 10, 1930 - Attention to the Individual Pupil - FASTER.
17. Dec. 12, 1930 - Is the Kindergarten a Necessity in our Lutheran Educational System? - W. Rafert.
18. Jan. 9, 1931 - Teachers Versus Pupil Activity - Vic. Albrecht.
19. Feb. 13, 1931 - Children in Public Worship - A. Lohr.
Eulogy on our departed Supt. O. Schroeter - M. Pohlmann.
20. Mar. 13, 1931 - First Twenty Years at Hull House - H. Zwintscher.
21. Sep. 11, 1931 - Life of Edward Bok - W. Bennhoff.
22. Oct. 9, 1931 - Duties of a Principal - Paul Schuelke
23. Feb. 12, 1932 - Washington - Albrecht and Niemoier.
24. June 9, 1933 - Historical Sketch in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Teachers' Conference - H. Foelber
25. Jan. 12, 1934 - The Teaching of the Infinite, demonstrated by W. Bennhof.
Long Division demonstrated by Fred Wolf.
26. Feb. 9, 1934 - Demonstration lesson on Memory Work - Geo. Twietmeyer.
Demonstration on Discipline - Albert Meyer.
Demonstration on Reading Lesson - A. Mansko.
27. Sep. 14, 1934 - Paper on Choral Singing - R. Schmidt.
Demonstration Lesson on Spelling - W. Widenhoefer.
28. Jan. 11, 1935 - Composition and Letter Writing - F. Uffelmann
On Bible Reading - H. G. Nuoffer.
29. Oct. 11, 1935 - Reading and Recitation, "To a Skylark" with Children -
E. O. Bertram
Lesson with children on the Participle - Fr. Schroeder
30. Nov. 8, 1935 - The 400th Anniversary of the Translation of the Bible -
L. Ramming
31. Dec. 13, 1935 - Language, Grades I - 4 - A. Lohr.
32. Jan. 15, 1937 - History in the Grades - Wm. Gernand.
33. Nov. 12, 1937 - About Gutzon Borglum and Art Appreciation - O. Schneider.
34. Feb. 11, 1938 - Voice Training - G. Arkebauer.
35. Mar. 10, 1938 - Manuscript Writing - O. Spurgat.
36. Oct. 11, 1938 - Poetry Appreciation - Morella Mensing.
37. Jan. 13, 1939 - Discussion on the Possible Changes and Correction in the Proposed Catechism - led by K. Floering.
38. May 12, 1939 - On Nature Study - Linse
39. Sep. 9, 1939 - Paper on Church Conditions in Germany - Professor Martin Bertram, Concordia College.
40. Nov. 8, 1940 - Panel Discussion on Pre-School Education and Training -
Wm. Gernand, Arthur E. Niemeyer, and E. Wendt, in joint session with the school boards.
41. Nov. 8, 1940 - Marking Written Work - Elder Sieving.
42. - How to Teach Children to be Polite - M. Pohlmann

43. Jan. 10, 1941 - On Silent Reading - Miss Mabel Holland.
44. Oct. 10, 1941 - The Lutheran Hymnal in School - G. M. Schmidt.
45. Nov. 14, 1941 - On School Reports - F. Uffelmann.
At this meeting the School Boards were present.
46. Feb. 13, 1942 - A movie entitled "Overcoming Limitations of Hearing" -
Arthur E. Niemeyer.
47. Nov. 13, 1942 - Teachers' Problems with Gifted Children - E. C. Sieving.
48. Jan. 9, 1943 - Combinations in Arithmetic - E. Werner.
49. - How to Treat Children with Defective Vision - Janetzke.
50. Feb. 12, 1943 - Trees and their Relations to Man - F. Uffelmann.
51. - The Speech Defective Child - Miss Vivian Roo.
52. Mar. and May) --- How to Train Pupils to Speak - Arthur Niemeier.
1943) --- The Hard of Hearing Child - Herman Zwintscher.
How to Increase the Enrollment of our Schools - Spurgat.

You will pardon me if I digress here to remind the colleagues that it was a standing rule of our forefathers to include practical lessons in Bible History and Catechism in their conference programs.

That our conference cannot be accused of being unpatriotic can be attested by a resolution passed on Friday, September 14, 1934, that our schools be closed on September 17th for the pageant commemorating the 140th anniversary of Anthony Wayne's arrival in Ft. Wayne; and on May 18th our schools were also closed in the afternoon when the citizens of Fort Wayne observed the Sesquicentennial of the opening of the Northwest Territory by a "Big Parade".

The minutes of our conference also verify that our schools participate in the annual city flower show and furthermore that they observe Humane Week by furnishing posters, bird-houses, and essays for the public exhibit.

In order that our Lutherans in general become more interested and better acquainted with the work and activities of our schools it was resolved in the meeting of February and March, 1941, that our schools present a pageant entitled, "Our Church Year" on Luther Day at Concordia College; furthermore, that an educational display of the work of our schools be exhibited at the Synodical convention.

There is an old Latin adage which says, "Mens sana in corpore sano" - "A sound mind in a healthy body." The old Greeks understood the import of this proverb. Their efforts in the physical training of their youth culminated, as we know, in the Olympian Games. In this day and age gymnastical exercises and athletics with contests are a part of almost every school. In the session on November 8, 1935, our conference passed a resolution that our school calendar include a Lutheran Field Day. Our school diary (and my own) reveals that the first Field Day of our schools was held on June 5, 1936, on the Concordia College Campus.

The records of the minutes also show that basketball tournaments of our schools were held at the end of the basketball season from 1939 to 1943.

That our conference does not confine itself to educational matters only, but is also mindful of the social demands in its family circles is revealed by the minutes which refer to the annual "Family Christmas Parties" and "June Outings." These family gatherings are undoubtedly an excellent medium for promoting the spirit of comradeship and sympathy of the fraternity.

Whenever one of the dear colleagues or a beloved wife of one of the colleagues is taken from our midst the sorrow and grief of the bereaved is shared by the members of the conference. "Geteilte Freude, doppelte Freude: Geteilter Schmerz, halber Schmerz." "Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep." Rom. 12:15.

According to the minutes it is an established rule that a letter of condolence with a floral offering or a memorial wreath be sent to the grief-stricken family, that the conference attend the funeral service in a body, and in the case of the death of the wife of a colleague, a representative from each faculty be delegated to attend the service.

On May 12, 1933, Mr. Stolper opened the conference session by reading several stanzas from the hymn "The Homeland, Oh the Homeland" (Lutheran Hymnal, #562), in tribute of the departed Rev. Ph. Wambsganss (April 21), Rev. Jacob Miller (May 11), teachers Herman Kenow (April 24), George Hermel (April 24), and Mrs. H. G. Nueffer (May 6), all of whom passed to the heavenly realm above within seventeen days of each other.

The following is a necrologue of the decedents:

Dec. 13, 1929	Mrs. Louise Bertram	Age 43 yrs.
Dec. 3, 1931	August Katt	54
May 31, 1932	George Weller	44
Apr. 24, 1933	George Hermel	88
Apr. 24, 1933	Herman Kenow	63
May 6, 1933	Mrs. H. G. Nueffer	61
Feb. 22, 1934	Mrs. Wm. (Anna) Wolf	64
June 17, 1934	Mrs. Otto Easter	52
Jan. 7, 1935	Mrs. George Hermel	81
Mar. 9, 1935	Mrs. Alma Schultz	59
Sep. 27, 1935	Fred Klein	74
Feb. 6, 1937	Wm. A. G. Wolf	72
Apr. 17, 1938	Gorhard Witte	47
Oct. 13, 1938	Mrs. Henry Linse	49
Mar. 6, 1939	Fred Wolf	71 yrs. 4 mo.
Aug. 19, 1939	Mrs. Fred Klein	74
Jan. 23, 1940	Fred Schroeder	78
Oct. 9, 1940	John Klitzke (former member)	72 yrs. 9 mo.
Oct. 29, 1940	Mrs. Clara Kampe	83
Aug. 24, 1941	Herman Hahn	72
Jan. 28, 1942	Mrs. Wm. (Alvina) Bennhoff	68

"Eternal rest grant them, Oh Lord, and let the light perpetual shine upon them." Requiescant in pace! May they rest in peace!

Colleagues welcomed and admitted into our conference since 1930:

September 1930 - Oscar Schneider
Arthur Nicmeier

January 1931 - Rudolph Schmidt

September 1931 - Alfred Manske

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
 SUBJECT: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
 2. [Illegible]
 3. [Illegible]
 4. [Illegible]
 5. [Illegible]

1	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
2	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
3	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
4	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
5	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
6	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
7	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
8	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
9	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
10	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
11	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
12	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
13	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
14	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
15	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
16	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
17	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
18	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
19	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
20	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
21	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
22	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
23	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
24	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
25	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
26	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
27	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
28	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
29	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
30	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
31	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
32	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
33	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
34	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
35	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
36	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
37	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
38	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
39	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
40	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
41	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
42	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
43	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
44	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
45	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
46	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
47	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
48	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
49	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
50	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]

Very truly yours,
 [Illegible Signature]

[Illegible text block]

September 1933 - Miss Hilda Moeller

September 1935 - Elmer Wendt
Leonard Ramming
Edmund Janetzko

September 1936 - Miss Luella Feiertag
Arthur E. Nieneyer

September 1937 - Dan Luebke
Edward Werner
George G. Arkobauer
Wilbert Rusch

September 1938 - Carl Waldschmidt

September 1940 - Student Ellen Foelber

September 1940 - Eldor Sieving
Miss Edna Grotelueschen

September 1942 - Rudolph Dobberfuhl
Edmund Hafemoister
Raymond Rosenthal
Miss Verna Kahdort
Miss Martha Timmermann
Dr. J. F. Stach
R. L. Gersmehl

September 1943 - Edwin Kirchhoff
Former teacher Walter Nagel as visitor.

Mr. Nagel, who taught at Emmanuel School at Soest for many years has been appointed Juvenile Probation Officer. This office, as we all know, was held for a number of years by Fred A. Klein, former teacher of Zion and Walther League Field Secretary.

Total number of teachers who taught from 1837 to 1943:

St. Paul had 48 teachers in the city school since 1837.
 17 teachers in the country branch schools since 1837.
A total of 65

Emmanuel had 16 teachers in the city school since 1867.
 6 teachers in the country school.
A total of 22

Zion had	20	teachers	since	1882
Trinity had	15	"	"	1895
Concordia had	16	"	"	1900
Emmaus had	21	"	"	1900
Bethlehem had	10	"	"	1927
St. Martini had	4	"	"	1875
Trinity Sub. had	2	"	"	1921

Calvary (Waynedale) had 4 teachers since 1932
 Luther Institute had 5 " from 1917-1935
 Lutheran High School, Concordia College had 9 teachers since 1935

TOTAL 193 teachers

Many, many a colleague has been welcomed and admitted into this conference during its seventy (70) years of existence. However, we have one colleague in our midst who never was welcomed into the conference, because he was one of the few who was instrumental in organizing this conference. That is our venerable colleague, Gustave Kampe, one of the charter members. Kampe is still marching along with his "70 year old child" rearing, nourishing, and cherishing it up to this day. There is to my knowledge no religious nor secular organization with the unique record of having had a seventy year's existence with a charter member still within it. Ergo, Brother Kampe, we repeat our hearty congratulations of ten years ago, but in the superlative! We acknowledge with deep gratitude and appreciation that your unique and outstanding record of having been a loyal and faithful member of this conference for the period of 70 years (the time of its existence) has been an inspiration to us and will be for many years to come. May God bless you in the future as He has done in the past.

There is an adage of ancient date with the cautious advice or warning, "Comparisons are odious" or, as it was misquoted by Dogberry (a foolish officer of Don Pedro) in Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," - "Comparisons are odorous."

Heeding this dictum I shall refrain from comparing the methods, accomplishments, results, etc., of our conference and schools of today with those of our predecessors.

Suffice it to state that the spirit and zeal of our conference at the close of this last, the seventh decade of its existence, has not abated. The seed sown by the fathers still continues to bear fruit abundantly. The building which they began to build is still steadily expanding. Since our last, the 60th anniversary, at least another school has been organized, more teachers have been added in some of the schools, and last but not least, a flourishing Lutheran High School has been established at Concordia College in 1935.

Our conference has increased from 42 to 52 members. Nine colleagues have celebrated their 50th anniversary in the last decade: Fr. Schroeder in 1933; H. J. Feiertag, 1934; Fred Wolf, 1938; H. M. Foelber, H. G. Nuoffer and Herman Hahn in 1939; Martin Pohlmann and Wm. Bennhoff in 1942; and Karl Floering in 1943.

Twenty-five of the 52 members of the conference have taught or served from 27 to 62 years in the schools of our Synod. They are as follows: Wm. J. Gernand, 27; August Lehr, 27; Fred Uffelman, 30; Oscar Schneider, 31; Henry Linse, 34; George Twietmeyer, 34; Louis Luepke, 36; Albert Meyer, 36; Paul Luecke, 37; G. M. Schmidt, 38; Wm. Widenhoefer, 38; Gustave Stephani, 41; Paul Schuelke, 41; Ernest Bertram 41; Otto Easter, 42; Frank Bredemoier, 42; Herman Stolper, 43; Oscar Heintz, 45; Karl Floering, 50; Wm. Bennhoff (ret.), 51; Martin Pohlman, 51; H. G. Nuoffer (ret.), 51; Herman M. Foelber (ret.), 52; Henry J. Feiertag (ret.), 58; and Gustave Kampe (ret.), 62.

Of these twenty-five men, thirteen have taught in our schools in Fort Wayne from 25 to 62 years. They are, Kampo (ret.) 62; Bennhoff (ret.) 48; Feiertag (ret.), 46; Pohlmann, 43; Floering 39; Heintz, 39; Easter, 38; Brode-meier, 34; Schuelke, 32; Foelber (ret.), 29; Nueffer (ret.), 29; Luecke, 26; and Linse, 25; a total of 490 years, or, an average of 38 years; which speaks well for Fort Wayne.

The three oldest members of the conference are, Gustave Kampo, 89; Henry Feiertag, 77; and Herman Foelber, 75.

May God bless our conference and schools as bountifully in the future as He has done in the past, is the fervent wish and prayer of

Your Colleague,

HERMAN M. FOELBER

Officers of Conference

Geo. Twistmeyer - Chairman
Wm. Bennhoff - Vice Chairman
Paul Schuelke - Sec. Treasurer

Program Committee

Faculty of Zion Lutheran School

Committees for the 70th Anniversary Celebration

Arthur Niemeier - General Chairman

Service Committee

H. A. Stolper
G. M. Schmidt

History Committee

Martin Pohlmann
Wm. Bennhoff
Herm. M. Foelber

Outing Committee

Fred Uffelmann
Otto Spurgat
Albert Meyer
Louis Luepke
Wilfred Rafert
Leonard Rarming
Rudolph Dobberfuhl

In the meeting on Friday, May 14, 1943, the conference adopted the following recommendations submitted by the arrangements committee for the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Teachers' Conference:

1. That an outing be held on June 12th at St. Martini's Grove near Colleague Meyer's school southeast of Fort Wayne.
2. That a special divine service be held on September 19th, at St. Paul's, the mother church, and that President Behnken be asked to deliver the anniversary sermon.
3. That we unite the various children's choruses into a mass chorus for this occasion, to be directed by colleague Sieving.
4. That the members of all the school boards be asked to attend the service in a body with the teachers.
5. That an invitation be extended to the three conferences of the Central District.
6. That the congregations of our city be invited to attend the service.
7. That the Anniversary Collection be given to the libraries of River Forest, and Seward Teachers' Colleges in equal shares.
8. That a copy of the History of Our Conference be presented to Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, to Concordia Seminary at Springfield, to the Teachers' Seminary at Seward, to the Teachers' Seminary at River Forest, and to Concordia College at Fort Wayne.

May 3, 1943

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF
FORT WAYNE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Prior to the year 1914, the Fort Wayne Lutheran schools had only seven grades. In September 1914, St. Paul's school introduced the eighth grade and had its first graduating exercises in 1915. In 1915 Emmaus also introduced the eighth grade and had graduating exercises in 1916. In 1916 Zion school followed with graduating exercises in 1917. Up till 1918 these schools had their separate graduating exercises. By September 1918, all schools in Fort Wayne had introduced the eighth grade. The eighth grade teachers met and agreed to do away with individual exercises and to make it a joint affair in order to avoid conflicting dates and to reduce the number of speakers, also to make it more impressive upon the public. The first combined commencement exercises were held in 1919 in the auditorium of St. Paul's school. It was also agreed not to take the speakers from the ranks of the graduates but to ask some pastor, professor, or school official to deliver a 10 minute Welcome Address and another one to deliver the Commencement Address. In 1919 there were 72 graduates. Year by year the class roll grew until it reached the number of 209 in 1932, 227 in 1937, and 233 in 1939. The total number of graduates from 1919 till 1942 is 4165. The number of graduates this year will be about 185, bringing the grand total to 4350, all of them young and tender soldiers of the Cross. A goodly number of these continue their studies in Concordia High School under tutership of Christian instructors, in a Christian atmosphere and in the association of youths of their own faith. What could be better for our young people? The musical part of the program is furnished by an orchestra of one of our Lutheran schools and by the graduating class (two numbers). Diplomas are awarded by one of the eighth grade teachers. The participating schools at the present time are the following: Bethlehem, Concordia, Emmanuel, Emmaus, Mt. Calvary (Wayne-dale), St. Paul, Sub. Trinity, Trinity, and Zion. For a number of years the commencement exercises were held in Concordia Gymnasium, and they are attended by from 500 to 600 people.

All the teachers of the Fort Wayne Conference are grateful to the Lord for being permitted the privilege of being instrumental, each in his small way, in the above success and to feed the lambs of God. The Lord, our God, be praised!

Submitted by,

H. G. NUOFFER

Following are the names of all the teachers who at one time or another have served in the Lutheran schools in and near Fort Wayne.

Note: (*) Died in office.

St. Paul, 1937-1943

*Rev. Jesso Hoover, assisted by his brother, David Hoover	1837-1838
F. W. Hussmann	1840- 46
*J. G. Wolf	1847- 62
J. G. Kunz	1855- 64
B. Feiertag (student)	1859- 60
H. W. Fleischer	1859- 61
A. Wilde	1861- 65
B. Gotsch	1862- 63
J. Troeller	1864- 66
J. G. Kurz	1864- 65
W. F. Wahlers	1865- 66
A. Leoser	1866- 73
J. Riedel	1867-1909
*Chr. Strieder	1867- 07
Clemens Grahl	1868-1888
H. Rolf	1868- 73
*H. J. Ungernach	1873-1912
Karl Seibel	1878-1882
E. Gerberding	1883-1921
H. Backner	1885-1887
B. Hermann	1888-1892
H. Nehrenz	1891- 95
*Fred Schroeder	1893-1940
H. J. Feiertag (ret.)	1898- 42
Albert Wolkenhauer	1906- 07
Paul Jungkuntz	1907- 09
*George Weller	1907- 32
Frank Brodemeier	1909-
J. L. Mueller	1910- 12
Rev. Paul Miller	1911- 13
Herman M. Foelber (ret.)	1913- 41
*Fred Wolf	1913- 39
E. A. Franke	1915- 21
Alb. Miller (student)	1916- 17
Henry Ehlen	1921- 27
John Klitzke	1921- 25
E. O. Bertram	1923-
H. A. Stolper	1926-
Rudolph Fischer	1927- 29
Miss Morella Mensing	1924- 42
Miss Amanda Meier	1929- 36
Arthur E. Niemeyer	1936-
Miss Luella Feiertag	1936-
Elder Sieving	1940-
Miss Ellen Foelber (student)	1940- 41
Rudolph Dobberfuhr	1942-
Miss Verna Rahdert	1942

Coldwater Rd. and Leesburg Rd.
(St. Paul Branches) combined.

W. Richter	1853-1854
W. Geiger	1854- 56
K. Herpelsheimer	1856- 60
P. Kestel	1860- 63

Coldwater Rd. (St. Paul)
Leesburg Rd. Emmanuel Combined.

D. Lindemann	1863- 68
Peter Meyn	1868- 77
C. Jahn	1877- 81
A. Aehnelt	1881- 86
Aug. Heerboth (student)	1886- 87
H. Malich	1887- 97

Coldwater Rd. (St. Paul)

G. Maschoff	1897-1903
Louis Lehmann	1903- 06
Otto Hoetzer	1906- 17

Liqua Rd. (St. Paul)

J. G. Wolf	1846-1848
Andreas Zagel	1848- 52

Liqua Rd. and Moeller Rd.
St. Paul Branch Schools Combined

E. A. Eggers	1853-1860
Theo. Kestel	1860- 65

Martini

Pastors	1865-1875
Theo. Kuechle	1875- 77
Rudolph Mueller	1883-1911
C. W. Widenhooper	1911-1919
A. H. Meyer	1919-

Suburban Trinity

Pastors	1865-1921
H. Teske	1921- 28
Edwin Nicol	1928-

Emmanuel - Organized 1867Trinity - Con't.

D. Lindemann	1867-1911
G. Grimm	1867-1890
A. Ross	1872-1873
Clemens Haentzschel	1873-1874
Dan Fechtmann	1871-1882
A. Hoppe	1882-1884
D. Roscher	1875-1891
G. Kampe (St. John's Ohio Synod)	1873-1878
G. Kampe (Emmanuel - ret.)	1878-1935
Geo. Hormel	1884-1924
H. Rolf	1890-1904
Theo. Grah1	1891-1901
H. Konow	1893-1901
H. G. Nuoffer (ret.)	1912-1940
Otto Spurgat	1935-
Miss Edna Grotelueschen	1940-
Raymond Rosenthal	1942-

Zion- Organized 1882

Karl Seibel	1882-1886
Rev. A. Zagel	1884-1893
G. Strassen	1883-1886
F. Hildebrandt (Student)	1886-1887
W. Gehrke	1886-1887
F. A. Klein	1887-1918
H. J. Mangelsdorf	1887-1894
Jacob Ross	1893-1894
*Wm. A. G. Wolf	1894-1937
Wm. Bennhoff (ret.)	1895-1943
Oscar Heintz	1904-
Wm. Hahn	1898-1911
Paul A. Schuelke	1911-
Herb. J. Foelbor	1919-1923
C. P. Michol	1921-1925
Sam Schroeder	1925-1928
Gustav Stephani	1924-
Geo. Twietmeyer	1925-
Herman Zwintscher	1929-
Geo. G. Arkebauer	1937-

Trinity - Organized 1895
(Bloomingtondale)

*Henry Nehrenz	1895-1897
Hugo Charlo	1897-1911
*Miss Julia Schust	1896-1913
A. Bornitzke	1911-1913
Miss Lydia Dornseif	1913-1917
Aug. Katt	1913-1917
Paul Luecke	1917-
Miss Martha Hahn	1918-1923

Adolph Weber	1924-1925
Miss Monica Monsing	1925-1926
Miss Esther Heine	1927-1928
Wilfred Rafert	1928-
Victor Albrecht	1930-1936
Dan Luebke	1937-1943
E. Kirchhoff	1943-

Concordia - Organized 1900

Martin Pohlman	1900-
Miss Viola Koby	1900
	1902-1904
	1910-1912
K. H. Floering	1900-1908
*Mrs. Alma Schulz 'nee Schmidt	04-1910
	1917-1935
Miss Adele Sauer	1904-1905
Otto Faster	1905-
Wm. Baur	1908-1918
Paul Droege	1911-1918
Otto Jungkuntz	1912-1916
Wm. Laufer	1918-1923
Henry Linse	1918-
E. W. Widenhoefer	1921-
Erwin Wiese	1923-1924
G. M. Schmidt	1924-1925
Louis Luepke	1925-
Elmer Wendt	1936-

Emmaus - Organized 1900

*Herman Konow	1901-1933
*Herman Hahn	1901-1938
Miss Clara Baumgart	1901-1902
Louise Baumgart	1902-1905
*F. Stork	1902-1903
Fred Wolf	1903-1907
O. Urbans	1905-1906
Sam Roehm	1906-1912
Miss Emily Traub	1907-1911
Miss Hannah Wambsganss	1911-1913
K. H. Floering	1912-1918
T. G. Eggers	1915-1930
*Albert Blumenberg	1915-1915
John Kirsch	1918-1919
A. J. Holtmann	1919-1930
August Lohr	1923-
Fred Uffolmann	1925-
R. Schmidt	1930-
Oscar Schneider	1930-
Miss Hilda Moeller	1933-
Edward Werner	1937-

Bethlehem - Organized 1927

G. M. Schmidt	1926-
L. U. Stephan (Student)	1928-1929
W. R. Schroth (Student)-	1929-1931
A. Manske	1931-
E. Hartmann (Student)	1931-1932
A. G. Deke (Student)	1932-1934
Leonard Ramming	1935-
Carl Waldschmidt	1938-
Miss Martha Timmermann	1942

Luther Institute 1917-1935

Prof. Martin Bertram	1917-1921
G. W. Witte	1917-1935
K. H. Floering	1918-1935
Wm. Gernand	1921-1932
Herbert Foolber	1923-1933

Mt. Calvary - Organized 1928
(Waynedale)

Lutheran High School 1935
(Continued from Luther Institute)

Rev. H. H. Backs	1929-1930
Edmund Janetzke	1935-1942
Arthur Niemeier	1930-
Edmund Hafemeister	1942-

*G. W. Witte	1935-1938
K. H. Floering	1935-
Wilbert Rusch	1937-
John F. Stach	1942-
R. L. Gersmehl	1942-

River Haven Mission

Edmund Janetzke	1942-
-----------------	-------

MEMBERS OF THE FORT WAYNE LUTHERAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE IN 1943

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR GRADUATED</u>	<u>MEMBER OF CONFERENCE SINCE</u>	<u>NO. YEARS IN OFFICE</u>	<u>NO. YEARS SERVED IN OR NEAR FT. WAYNE</u>
<u>ST. PAUL</u>				
H. J. Feiertag (ret. 1942)	1884	1897	58	46
Herman M. Foelber (ret. 1941)	1889	1913	52	29
Herman A. Stolper	1900	1926	43	17
Frank Bredemeier	1901	1909	42	34
Ernest O. Bertram	1902	1923	41	20
Arthur Niemeyer	1926	1936	17	7
Eldor C. Sieving	1930	1940	13	3
Rudolph Dobberfuhr	1942	1942	1	1
Miss Luella Feiertag		1936	7	7
Miss Verna Rahdert		1942	15	1
<u>EMMANUEL</u>				
Gustava Kampe (ret. 1935)	1873	1873	62	62
H. G. Nuoffer (ret. 1940)	1889	1912	51	28
Otto Spurgat	1932	1935	11	8
Raymond Rosenthal	1934	1942	9	1
Miss Edna Grotelueschen	1938	1940	5	3
<u>ZION</u>				
William Bennhoff (ret. 1943)	1892	1895	51	48
Oscar Heintz	1898	1904	45	39
Paul Schuelko	1902	1911	41	32
Gustav Stephani	1902	1924	41	19
George Twietmeyer	1909	1925	34	18
George G. Arkobauer	1920	1937	23	6
Herman Zwintscher	1923	1929	20	14
<u>TRINITY</u>				
Paul Luecke	1906	1917	37	26
Wilfred Rafort	1928	1928	15	15
Edwin Kirchhoff	1931	1943	11	
<u>CONCORDIA</u>				
Martin Pohlmann	1892	1900	51	43
Otto Fester	1901	1905	42	38
C. Wm. Widenhoefer	1905	1921	38	22
Louis Luepke	1907	1925	36	18
Henry Linse	1909	1918	34	25
Elmer Wendt	1932	1936	11	7

THE FORT WAYNE LUTHERAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 1943

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR GRADUATED</u>	<u>MEMBER OF CONFERENCE SINCE</u>	<u>NO. YEARS IN OFFICE</u>	<u>NO. YEARS SERVED IN OR NEAR FT. WAYNE</u>
<u>EMMAUS</u>		550793		
Oscar Schneider	1912	1930	31	13
Fred Uffelmann	1913	1925	30	18
August Lohr	1916	1923	27	20
Rudolph Schmidt	1920	1930	13	13
Edward Werner	1934	1937	9	6
Miss Hilda Moeller		1933	20	10
<u>BETHLEHEM</u>				
G. M. Schmidt	1905	1924	38	19
Alfred Manske	1931	1931	12	12
Leonard Ramming	1935	1935	8	8
Carl Waldschmidt	1938	1938	5	5
Miss Martha Timmermann		1942	10	1
<u>ST. MARTINI (Sub. Trinity)</u>				
Albert Meyer	1907	1919	36	28
Edwin Nicol	1926	1928	17	15
<u>WAYNE DALE</u>				
Arthur Niemeier	1930	1930	13	13
Edmund Hafemeister	1939	1942	4	1
<u>RIVER HAVEN</u>				
Edmund Janetzke	1932	1935	11	8
<u>LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL</u>				
*Karl Floering	1893	1900	50	39
John F. Stach	1922	1942	21	1
Wilbert Rusch	1931	1937	12	6
R. L. Gersmehl	1939	1942	4	1
<u>SUPERINTENDENT OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS - CENTRAL DISTRICT</u>				
William J. Gernand	1916	1921	27	22

*Served in Fort Wayne at two different times -- taught for four years in Decatur, Illinois, 1908-1912. Taught 25 years in grade school and 25 years in high school.



